

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 SSO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 SCCT-01

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P R 141550Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0944

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 14349

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. UNTIL NOW FAIRFAX COUNTY ORDINANCE AGAINST CONCORDE HAS RECEIVED ONLY LOW-KEY PASSING MENTION IN FRENCH PRESS. INTEREST HAS NOW ESCALATED, HOWEVER, PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF AFP STORY FILED MAY 13 FROM WASHINGTON, AND FRENCH RADIO EVENING MAY 13 AND MORNING MAY 14 CARRIED REPORTS OF DEVELOPMENTS AND SPECULATED WHETHER CREW OF CONCORDE MIGHT BE ARRESTED OR AIRCRAFT BE IMPOUNDED WHEN FIRST CONCORDE FLIGHT IS MADE TO DULLES ON MAY 24. LE FIGARO OF MAY 14 DOES NOT CARRY THE STORY, HOWEVER, NOR DOES LE MONDE ISSUE ON SALE THAT AFTERNOON.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY (AND FROM BRITISH EMBASSY) OF LETTER DATED MAY 10 WHICH ELY, DOT GENERAL COUNSEL, IS SAID TO HAVE ADDRESSED TO FAIRFAX COUNTY AUTHORITIES CITING LEGAL PRECEDENT TO SUPPORT ARGUMENT THAT ORDINANCE IS ILLEGAL AND UNENFORCEABLE. COPY WAS APPARENTLY GIVEN TO COUNSEL

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FOR AIR FRANCE AND BRITISH AIRWAYS. CLAUDE-

LAFONTAINE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS MUCH PLEASED AT THIS DEVELOPMENT.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING RATHER FULL PARTICULARS ON STATE OF PLAY REGARDING FAIRFAX COUNTY PROBLEM, AS WELL AS ON ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS BEARING ON WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK COURT ACTIONS, IN ORDER THAT WE MAY BE WELL ARMED TO RESPOND TO ANY QUERIES FROM GOF OR FROM PRESS, ESPECIALLY WITH POSSIBILITY GISCARD VISIT AND IMPENDING INAUGURATION CONCORDE SERVICE TO DULLES MAY 24 WILL CONTINUE GENERATE HEIGHTENED MEDIA INTEREST HERE IN CONCORDE DEVELOPMENTS. SUCH BACKGROUND IS ALSO NEEDED IN VIEW RCAA TRAVEL TO TOULOUSE AND BORDEAUX MAY 20-21 FOR BACKGROUND DISCUSSION AND INTERVIEW ON CONCORDE WITH NEWSPAPERS THOSE TWO CITIES.

4. GENERAL STORY FILED BY REUTER IN PARIS MAY 14 ON INAUGURATION US SERVICE BY CONCORDE REPORTS SECSTATE OF TRANSPORTATION CAVAILLE AS SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT TAKING SERIOUSLY REPORTS THAT CONCORDE CREW WOULD FACE PROBLEMS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF THEY LANDED AT DULLES BUT WARNED GOF REACTION WOULD BE "VERY SHARP" IF THERE WERE ANY INCIDENTS.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY ALSO OBVIOUSLY PLEASED AT WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OF NEW JERSEY SENATE HAS RECOMMENDED SUPPORT OF COLEMAN DECISION, WHICH IF CONFIRMED BY PLENARY SENATE WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE EFFECT OF NULLIFYING MEASURE VOTED BY NEW YORK LEGISLATURE FOR REDUCING NOISE CEILING AT JFK BELOW LEVEL AT WHICH CONCORDE COULD QUALIFY. ANY FULLER DETAILS DEPT. CAN PROVIDE THIS SUBJECT WOULD ALSO BE MUCH APPRECIATED.
GAMMON

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